

Chator took over the premises in April. We were in possession of the premises from 1941 until 1942.

The Sanitary Board's power to make by-laws under the Public Health Ord-

Council being consulted at all. Certain by-laws were vetoed as "being beyond the proper scope of by-laws," and another was prepared in accordance with Hines' directions and submitted to the council. On any future occasion of this kind it is to be hoped the Sanitary Board will act as a semi-representative institution, and upon its rights and not allow the council to be the mere representatives of the public, but to set aside by the mere fiat of its majority.

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ing it unscathed, and those of its

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In another column we publish a letter signed "Bystander" on what is undoubtedly

In another column we publish a letter signed "Bystander" on what is undoubtedly considered by the Chinese a substantial grievance. "Bystander" whom we take to be a Chinaman, has omitted to comply with our rule requiring correspondents to state their real names, but the subject he deals with is one of such importance, and the case is so clear, that we will give the Chinese should be expressed, the views we have given insertion to his letter, notwithstanding. The search made by the existing officers of the persons of passengers arriving in the colony is, we believe, entirely illegal. The proper course, if they suspect a person of crime, is to report him person, to the nearest magistrate, or to the nearest police station to the Police Station. It is not the business of the Chinese who suffer from the illegal action of the taxicab officers, or, however they may be, to take the law into their own hands, or very likely to take steps themselves to redress, though they might no doubt successfully maintain an action either in the criminal or civil Courts. They are ignorant of their rights, and it is their duty if they are searched as officials they assume that they must submit. It seems to us that the Government ought to do something to bring about a more satisfactory state of things than at present prevails. To insist upon the taxicab officers absolutely refraining from interfering with the passengers, and interfering with the ordinary, or even the illegal, business of the colony, is to insist upon the

to pounce upon base-minded or respectable men, the street, empty out the contents of the boxes there, and then into the middle of it, and they might catch their persons in the presence of a large assembly, as if in an arena which ought not to be permitted in places enjoying the advantages of civilized government. If search there must be, ought to be conducted with due regard for decency, and in such a way that it shall not operate as an individual hardship. How this is to be accomplished, with due protection to the revenue, by any means short of the establishment of examining offices where all passengers and their luggage would be searched under proper regulations will be the problem the solution of which will not be essential to which it is the duty of the Government to give careful attention.

The bestowal by the Viceroy of Nanking of honorific tablets on those who have been

The hostility by the Viceroy of Nanking to honorific tablets on those who have been instrumental in the collection of funds for famine relief is a graceful act which will give pleasure not only to the recipients but to the donors generally. Although foreign relief has been given to various famines since the first time that efforts were made, this is the first time that official recognition has been made of the fact, at all events on so large a scale. It will be remembered also that official assistance was on this occasion directly solicited by the Chinese. In Hongkong the appeal for relief for Kiangsu and Anhui was received with some skepticism as it was unnecessary, and beyond a rote vote of £10,000 the public funds of the colony were not permitted to be lent to the British Consul at Shanghai. The directors of the fund as he might deem most advantageous, no public subscription was forwarded from this colony. Of the sum voted by the Legislative Council a part was sent by the Consul to the Northern Relief Committee, and a portion handed over to Mr. DREYFUS's committee at Shanghai. Whether the consular action brought to the notice of the Viceroy of Nanking was sufficient or not, however, we observe that while the names of the Governor of the Straits Settlements is included in the list of recipients of tablets that of the Governor of Hongkong is absent.

That, the distress was deep and widespread there can be no doubt. Happily it has now almost disappeared, except in some districts of Shantung and Manchuria, where it is still the cause of much of Shanghai's cotton famine. The Chinese Government has been distributing relief on a lavish scale, although it is correspondingly the other day complained that tribute produce was being shipped for Tientsin from places where the people were still in want of food. Practically, however, the famine may be considered as a thing of the past. In China there are vast numbers of people who are the verge of starvation, and the future of the crop-raising leaves them absolutely destitute, so that a bad season's pass without a year of distress would be a blessing from some part of the vast empire. At times, when the districts affected are more extensive than usual, as was the case last winter, the attention of the world is attracted by the famine, but in reality the distress may be said to be occurring annually. In the course of the year, the famine is the cause of the prevailing in some parts of India, sufficiently acute to call for public relief, it has been pointed out that there is no poor law in that country, and to show what this means the attention is directed to the fact that in England and alone, exclusive of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, with a population of less than twenty millions, the nearly 47,000,000 are supported annually in the same manner as in China, is in India, in ordinary times the population is made up on the heads of families, but in times of scarcity, when the whole agricultural population of a district is reduced to want, there is no relief possible except from Government stores or public subscriptions. In the recent famine the sum collected by the general committee at Shanghai amounted only to £1,000,000, including both Chinese and European contributions. Assuming that Government grants raised would amount distributed to £1,1,000,000, or even £1,2,000,000, the sum appears insignificant with the 27,000,000 annually expended on poor relief in England, although in the latter country the number of paupers is considerably short of a million, while in China the recent distress visited very many millions more than that.

One of the contributing causes to distress in China is the absence of adequate means of communication. The people of one province may be starving while there is abundance of supplies in a neighbouring province, but no means of conveying them to those dying for want of them. Canals are freely constructed all over the country, but the things which disappear, and the people who are starving, are not on local crops but are in the case of distant ones, however far distant. The *North China Daily News* suggests as a more immediate means of relief the extension of the system of irrigation in North China. The Chinese are familiar with the principle of irrigation and as a nation stand first in re-ignoring the world in irrigation. They may do not possess irrigation on a small scale, but they are necessary for the construction of extensive, reservoirs and artificial lakes. In India the British Government has extended the native system of irrigation, and the revenue derived from works of this description is in some instances as much as four per cent of the capital sunk. It is suggested by the *North China Daily News* that a system of lakes should be constructed along the course of the Yellow River sufficiently capacious to relieve the pressure on the river banks during freshets. They would also serve the double purpose of diminishing the liability of the country to floods from the overflow of the river and of storing up water for irrigation in times of drought. Such a scheme would have to be conducted on a large scale and would be of great benefit, but if a careful survey of the district showed it to be feasible the outlay would be money well spent.

The following letter has been handed to us for publication by the Secretary of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce:—

1816.—With reference to your letter of the 11th inst., addressed to the Commodore, Chinese Coast, I have the honor to inform you that the subject of the survey of the Chinese Coast, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have approved of the plan proposed by the said Commodore, and I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform the said Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in arranging the distribution of the necessary surveying ships, the requirements in connection with the survey of the Chinese Coast and the necessary arrangements for the said survey. I am unable to undertake to keep you apprised of any special interest that I have to the neglect of other important interests—I have &c.

M. A. SALMON,
Vice-Admiral.

Commodore, Esq., Secretary of Hongkong.

There was a fair attendance of members at the spoon competition at 500 yards on Saturday the 20th July, which was won by P. C. D. M.

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An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held on Saturday afternoon, the 20th day of the month of

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23rd June.

23rd June.
IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
BEFORE MR. FIELDING CLARKE
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

AND OTHERS V. HONGKONG
COMPANY, LIMITED; HONGKONG
COMPANY, LIMITED, V. CHATER

First of these suits the plaintiff
damages in consequence of the
wing by the Hotel Company
of plaintiffs' premises are
uninhabitable. In the second
company was the defendants
the above mentioned premises

Francis, Q.C., instructed by
Cousins & Stokes, appeared for

ator, and the Acting Attorney J. Loach), instructed by Messrs. J. Loach, for the Hotel Company. The names were:—Messrs. E. F.

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to be as strong as those built on solid ground instead of in the course of 90 years it to repair and strengthen them. The main reason for this was that the material and not the work, that whatever failure or collapse, there was no weakness in the Hotel Company. The plan which Holliday, Wise & Co. made certain proposals to the city on the south side of the river for Holliday, Wise & Co. The work of that month the erection of new wing which was now approved was commenced. The work of verandah was not actually commenced in April, and was not finished until the day after the explosion. When the work was completed, the whole of the building was handed over to Mr. Carter, and one of the main reasons why the damage was not the damage caused by the taking down of the verandah was that the verandah was not taken down until the day after the explosion. What was done before the explosion was not responsible to the company that happened before the explosion. The agreement was made between the building and the contractors just as they were. The taking down of that verandah was the greatest and valuable thing that the owners had been able to do. The Hotel Company was not responsible for the damage. The Hotel Company was not responsible for the damage. The Hotel Company was not responsible for the damage.

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Cross-examined by the Acting Attorney-General—When I made my examination on the 13 June, 1938, I took great care to examine the building. I took three hours over it. I went to the roof. I saw the roof. I went into all the rooms I could get into. I saw the Holiday, Wise & Co.'s dining room. I saw a sub-division of the floor of about four inches towards the cross wall. I also saw a sub-division in the floor. Also towards the cross wall. There was no looking towards the verandah. There was also no looking towards the window. This room below was occupied by Mr. Gurney. When I finally saw the same thing, I did not see any bulging there; the bulging was in More & Gurney's place down below. I examined the walls externally. I do not remember seeing iron rods outside, but I saw them inside. I plunged

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examined by Mr. Francis-Thomson, the main beams and members of the roof were sound. There was nothing in the state of the roof to cause a distribution of weight. The failure 1.28. The cause of the above-mentioned was not a sinking of the roof as I do not yet know the cause. That is the cause of the bulging in of the east wall. I have not seen the bricks uncovered there. It could not be caused by the subsidence of the ground.

By His Lordship—I can't say the foundations of the south wall were not injured before the bursting of the trench, but it would be in the nature of a conjecture to say that they were injured, and there was a wall further along the trench which would have prevented any movement of the soil by the flow of water.

The court adjourned until eleven o'clock the next morning.

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